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Message Text

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51
ACTION ARA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 L-01 SSO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 ARAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 980

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 3167

LIMDIS

EO 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR PGOV CS
SUBJ: AGREEMENT OF JUSTICE DEPARTMENT TO HIRE COSTA RICAN LAWYER

REF: STATE 176175

1. EMBASSY NOTES AUTHORIZATION BY JUSTICE TO HIRE COSTA RICAN ATTORNEY TO WORK ON SOME VESCO RELATED MATTERS, BUT WONDERS WHAT IS RESPONSE TO OUR ORIGINAL REQUEST FOR LOCAL LEGAL ASSISTANCE IN ANALYZING EXISTING EXTRADITION LAW, REVISION NOW PENDING IN ASSEMBLY, AND/OR ANY FURTHER CHANGES WHICH PRESIDENT ODUBER MAY PROPOSE (SAN JOSE 1945; SAN JOSE 1541; SAN JOSE 4212, NOV 4, 1974; AND SAN JOSE 3738, SEPT 26, 1974). WOULD APPRECIATE ADVICE ON THIS POINT.

2. PRIOR TO RECOMMENDING ATTORNEY TO JUSTICE, EMBASSY WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE SOME FURTHER INDICATION OF THE LINE AND OBJECTIVES TO BE PURSUED IN THIS INVESTIGATION OF INTER-AMERICAN CAPITAL. IS USG INTEREST IN INTER-AMERICAN CAPITAL DIRECTLY RELATED TO ACTIONS PENDING IN US COURTS OR GRAND JURIES OR ALTERNATIVELY ARE WE CONSIDERING ACTIONS IN COSTA RICAN COURTS? THIS DISTINCTION COULD AFFECT OUR CHOICE OF LAWYERS.

3. WE WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE INDICATION OF RELATION-
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SHIP BETWEEN INVESTIGATION OF INTER-AMERICAN CAPITAL

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AND DEVELOPMENT OF POSSIBLE NEW EXTRADITION ATTEMPT.
IN THIS CONNECTION AND RECALLING THAT VESCO WILL BE
ELIGIBLE FOR COSTA RICAN CITIZENSHIP IN 1977, IT SEEMS
TO EMBASSY THAT USG SHOULD GIVE PRIORITY TO EXTRADITION
PROBLEM. WE UNDERSTAND THAT IT IS NOT NECESSARILY
CONTEMPLATED THAT SAME ATTORNEY WOULD BE USED IF WE WERE
TO PROCEED WITH ANOTHER EXTRADITION REQUEST, BUT WE
WONDER WHETHER INTER-AMERICAN CAPITAL MATTER MAY NOT
TEND TO MERGE OR OVERLAP WITH OTHER AREAS OF INTEREST
AND FINALLY WITH EXTRADITION ATTEMPT. IF THAT IS
LIKELY, THERE WOULD BE OBVIOUS ADVANTAGES IN
CHOOSING AN ATTORNEY NOW WHO CAN GET IN AT BEGINNING
AND COUNSEL US THROUGHOUT.

4. RESPONSES TO ABOVE POINTS WILL HAVE IMPORTANT AND
DIRECT BEARING ON CHOICE OF ATTORNEY. UPON RECEIPT OF
DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS, EMBASSY WILL DEVELOP AND FORWARD
LIST OF RECOMMENDED ATTORNEYS.
TODMAN

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